

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20

NEA-10 RSR-01 /061 W

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R 021555 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1361

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN REQUEST FOR TDY SERVICES OF
SECURITY SPECIALIST

1. MINISTER OF INTERIOR, TAHAR BELKODJA, ASKED ME MARCH 29 RE POSSIBILITY USG SENDING SECURITY SPECIALIST ON TDY FOR PURPOSE TAKING UP- TO- DATE LOOK AT BOP (BRIGADE DE L' ORDRE PUBLIC). BELKODJA, WHO HAS JUST TAKEN OVER AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, IS UNDERTAKING THOROUGH REVIEW OF MINISTRY' S CAPABILITIES. HE TOLD ME THAT HE FEELS THAT BOP HAS SLIPPED A BIT IN LAST YEAR OR SO AND BELIEVES IT NEEDS A JACKING UP. AMERICAN ADVISER, FOR SHORT STAY, WOULD BE HELPFUL IN INDICATING HOW TO IMPROVE BOP OPERATIONS. HE ASKED FOR BENNETT BY NAME.

2. I URGE THAT WE ACQUIESCE IN BELKODJA' S REQUEST AND THAT, IF POSSIBLE, WE SEND BENNETT WHO PLAYED KEY ROLE IN ORGANIZING BOP. AID CONCURS.

3. COMMENT: BELKODJA IS OBVIOUSLY " TAKE CHARGE" GUY WHO INTENDS TO CARRY OUT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA INSTRUCTIONS TO TIGHTEN THINGS UP. HE HAS ASSURED ME THAT GOT DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT BLACK SEPTEMBER FROM OPERATING IN TUNISIA.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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